

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 1 and 13 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 3-6, 11 and 12 to read as follows.

Claims 1 and 2 (cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim † 6, wherein said measurement means uses the elapsed period during which the recording is executed on the recording medium as the cap-open period.

4. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim † 6, wherein said capping means can move said cap member to a capping state in which the ejection ports are capped with said cap member and to the cap-open state.

5. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim † 6, wherein the recovery processing executed by said recovery means includes suction recovery processing for discharging the ink from the ejection ports by suction.

6. (Previously presented) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 1, further for executing recording by ejecting ink onto a recording medium based on recording data using a recording head for ejecting the ink from ejection ports, comprising:

recovery means for executing recovery processing for maintaining the ink ejection capability of the recording head;

a cap member for capping the ejection ports of the recording head;

capping means for moving said cap member in a direction in which said cap member approaches the recording head and in a direction in which said cap member is separated from the recording head;

measurement means for measuring a cap-open period that is an elapsed period of a cap-open state while recording onto the recording medium, in which the ejection ports are not capped with said cap member;

control means for executing the recovery processing by said recovery means when the cap-open period cumulated by cumulation means exceeds a predetermined period; and

calculation means for calculating the amount of ink discharged from the recording head by ejection; ejection,

wherein said control means resets the cumulated period when the recovery processing is executed while the cap-open period is cumulated, and

wherein when the cumulated period is longer than the predetermined period, said control means further determines whether or not the discharged amount of the ink calculated by said calculation means is greater than a predetermined amount, and when the

discharged amount of the ink is greater than the predetermined amount, the recovery processing is further executed by said recovery means.

7. (Previously presented) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the discharged amount of the ink is greater than the predetermined amount, said control means resets the cumulated period and the calculated discharged amount of the ink.

8. (Previously presented) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said calculation means calculates the discharged amount of the ink by counting the number of ink droplets ejected from the recording head.

9. (Previously presented) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

determination means for determining whether or not the recording data to be recorded next is present; and

memory means for storing the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the ink,

wherein when determined that the recording data to be recorded next is not present, said control means controls said capping means such that the ejection ports are capped with said cap member and stores the cumulated period and the discharged amount of the ink in said memory means.

10. (Previously presented) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said recovery means executes the recovery processing by discharging the ink by suction, and the recovery processing is executed differently by changing the amount of ink to be sucked.

11. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein a plurality of the cap members are provided, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated by said measurement means for each cap member.

12. (Currently amended) An inkjet recording apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 6, wherein a plurality of recording heads are used in correspondence to colors of the inks to be recorded, and the cap-open period is measured and cumulated for each of the ink colors.

Claims 13 and 14 (cancelled)